United Nations

Press Release

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for humanitarian assistance to northern Iraq goes on mission to Persian Gulf region to discuss refugee situation and United Nations' take-over of centres.

- United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission completes deployment in demilitarized zone between two countries; coalition forces to begin withdrawal from zone.

- Commission calls for review of implementation of Global Programme of Action and System-wide Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

- Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar will visit Washington, D.C., from 8 to 10 May for meetings with President George Bush and other high-level United States officials.

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A United Nations official in Geneva announced this morning that the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for humanitarian assistance to Iraq and its borders with Turkey and Iran, Sadruddin Aga Khan, was going on a mission today to the Persian Gulf region at the Secretary-General's request.

The official said that Sadruddin Aga Khan would discuss during his one-week stay in the area the situation of displaced persons and refugees as well as the modalities of the United Nations' take-over of the refugee centres in northern Iraq with relevant national authorities and representatives of the agencies and non-governmental organizations. He would be visiting Kuwait, Iraq, Iran and Turkey, as well as the Iraq-Turkey and Iraq-Iran border areas.

In a separate development today, a United Nations official announced that the Special Commission set up by the Security Council to monitor Iraqi destruction of certain types of weapons had met this morning in order to break down into four working units: chemical and biological weapons:

(more)

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nuclear-weapons capability; ballistic missiles; future compliance. He said the Commission would meet for the rest of the week in brief meetings each morning followed by meetings of the four working groups.

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A United Nations official announced today that Major-General Gunther Greindl, Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), had informed the Secretary-General yesterday that the force had completed its deployment in the demilitarized zone between the two countries, and was ready to assume its monitoring and observation functions. The General said he was informing the Iraqi and Kuwaiti Governments as well as the coalition forces, so that they could begin the withdrawal of their military forces from the zone.

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The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, currently meeting in Vienna, has approved a draft resolution which would have the Economic and Social Council authorize the Commission to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Plan on Drug Abuse Control. The Global Programme was adopted by the special session of the General Assembly on international cooperation against narcotic drugs, held in February 1990.

The text, approved by consensus, would also ask the Secretary-General to take the appropriate administrative steps to ensure that the Commission would be able to assume these additional functions with effect from the dates set for its 1992 session.

The draft text also proposed that the terms of reference of the Commission, adopted in 1946, needed adjustment and expansion in the light of the intensification of international cooperation against illicit production and trafficking.

Also this morning, the Commission discussed a draft resolution on its functioning which proposed that the Commission henceforth should meet annually.

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The Secretary-General will travel to Washington, D.C., tomorrow, 8 May, to begin a three-day round of meetings with President George Bush, Secretary of State James A. Baker III, and various senior Administration officials and Congressional leaders. The meeting with President Bush is scheduled for Thursday, 9 May, in the morning, followed by a working luncheon at the White House.

On Thursday afternoon, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar will meet members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at an informal gathering hosted by Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell (Democrat, Rhode Island). He will also meet with the leadership of the House of Representatives. Before returning to New York on Friday, he is expected to receive senior Administration officials in his suite at Blair House.

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